

English Transcript for *Purdue University*

We're here with Bryant Priester, assistant director on international undergraduate recruitment for Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and we're going to be hearing from Bryant about Purdue and their admissions process today. Bryant, thanks for being with us. >> Thank you for having me. >> Just to get started, maybe you could tell us a little bit about your role, and what you do as an Admission Officer? >> At Purdue University, my role is to work with students in the Undergr, International Undergraduate Admissions process. So, my job is to look at all of the multiple countries that we have International students from and develop a recruitment plan that's specific for each country or region of the world. In that sense, I do a lot of travel, approximately 20 weeks a year overseas. I work with, you know, communicating with parents, students, administrators. Government officials from around the US, and around the world about the application process so that students are most successful, in the application to Purdue. >> So you travel a lot? >> Yeah. So I, I definitely have the opportunity to see many students in whatever educational system that they're part of. >> Is that one of your, one of the favorite parts of, of, of the job for you? >> I think, you know, for what I do professionally, it helps put things in perspective, you know, where students come from, the challenges that they have to overcome as they complete, you know, their high school experience and as they think about, for our students. wanting, having the opportunity to study in the United States. >> So, now that we know a little bit about you, can you tell us a little bit more about Purdue University? >> Absolutely, so Purdue, we're located in West Lafayette, Indiana. And we are a small town but we're located between two large cities, Chicago, the third largest city in US, and Indianapolis, the 12th largest city in the US. Purdue has 40,000 students total. But 30,000 undergraduates. We have about 9,000 international students overall and about 4,500 International undergraduate students from between 125 to 130 countries, sort of depending on the semester. Purdue currently according to the United States government is educating the most, International students in the STEM fields in the United States and STEM refers to science, technology, engineering, and math majors on foreign students who are studying. >> I'm always telling students that US Universities and Colleges each have their own unique personality. How would you describe the personality of Purdue? >> I would say that, you know, the students who ultimately come to Purdue generally they have a sense of purpose. Many of our students, es, especially our International students I think they sort of see like the end game. They are definitely interested in how can I make my country, how can I make my society or just my situation better? Because a large amount of our students are studying within the science in the scientific field. I would say that our students definitely want to interact with other students, especially with, you know, many of our students, we have obviously American's as well on campus and we work very hard to make sure students have that, interaction because at Purdue we have the largest International degree seeking freshman class in the US. Our students who are coming to West Lafayette are studying for four full years. So they want the experience, just like any other college student, you know, in the US from the beginning to the end, you know. And we want to make sure our students feel invested because, at this point, it doesn't really matter where you are in the world. You know, they're, they're all considered a boiler maker. >> Mm-hm. >> And that's our mascot at Purdue. >> You probably get this question all the time. What is a boiler maker? >> Boiler maker sort of refers to, you know, I would say in the early, I guess, late 1800s, 19th century. They were the people that made the boilers on the steam engine for trains. And obviously to be a boiler maker it

requires you fashioning steel in metal. So you have to be very strong, you know? And so that's where the term boiler maker came from. >> Mm-hm. >> So, even though there are other. Boiler Maker can refer to other things as well. But that's what we refer, that's what we use in terms of Boiler Maker at Purdue. >> And just a note to the students watching, mascots at US schools are pretty important so you might come across some, seemingly funny ones like the Boiler Makers at times [LAUGH]. All right so along the lines of personality, what types of students succeed at Purdue? And who struggles? And why might those students either succeed or struggle? >> I think it's fair to say that obviously Purdue has, is a very large school. Students who ultimately succeed are those who take advantage of the resources that we have. >> Mm-hm. >> And also, if there are difficulties or things that they need they, they feel empowered to ask. You know, employees or staff members about you know whatever situation they may need more information about. Those who sort of don't understand that or who don't feel compelled to ask for things when you know a problem could be in it's infancy and then it, gets larger, those are students who probably could have more difficulties in doing that. And then a way to work with students. Because, you know, there are sort of many different sort of cultural considerations when thinking about, well, I need to ask for help. >> Mm-hm. >> And so we try to educate our students that during our International Orientation, you know. As part of being a student at Purdue. As part of being, working in, being a part of a, as a university student in general, if you have questions, ask us. Let us know. Find a staff member. You know, I don't know every single aspect of every single office at Purdue. But, you know, my job is to figure out those questions. You know, at, at, being a university representative and an employee. So that students are aware of the services for them. >> Now, you mentioned, Purdue University has about 30,000 undergraduate students, >> Yeah. >> Which puts it into the classification of being a large or very large university. >> Right. >> What is it like to, for a student to attend a large or very large school like Purdue? >> I, I, I always tell you know, our perspective students being at Purdue is like being, it's like being in the city itself, you know? I mean in terms of like transportation, the bus system in terms of, you know the wide variety of restaurants, the athletic facilities, walking trails. Multiple building, classrooms leisure, leisure activities and the students you know all around and we have nearly 1,000 student organizations and clubs. You know they're multiple faith based initiatives on campus so students sort of feel like you know you're in, a, a city or town itself. I mean Purdue we have our own fire department police department. You know. Own golf courses. You know. We have our own airport for students who are, who want to be a pilot in training. so, I, I think they sort of see that this sort of a living learning community. When thinking about Lafa, when thinking about West Lafayette and not only the student center, but, you know, many of our employees live, you know, in town and next to campus, you know. I usual, I live within a 15 minute walk to, to school. So, I'm a part of that community as well. So I think that's what students sort of need to know, it's not sort of a fenced off. Sort of area of learning, but it's sort of like a enlarged community, you know, where people are interacting and learning. >> Part of the reason why Purdue is so large is because Purdue is a public university. >> Yes. >> Can you explain what it means, when students see a school as listed as a public university. >> So Purdue University was we're, we're in the state of Indiana and public generally refers to, we receive part of our operating budget from the state, our state of Indiana in order to do business on a every, on a daily, on a yearly basis. That does not correlate with prestige or any of, any other sort of metrics. This, this a way that our school is, is being financed by our individual state in the United States. >> So, Purdue is also known as a research university. >> Mm-hm. >> [COUGH] officially it has a

classification of RUVH, research University very high research activity. [LAUGH] Can you explain what it means for a school to be a research university? >> Being a research university means that, you know corporations, the United States government. Military etc, give money for professors and students to do research on a on a yearly or multi year basis for a wide variety of things. That's pretty much the basis for being a high research university. Obviously, I mean in terms of Purdue we're known as producing 23 astronauts. So definitely lots of contracts within aerospace industry. >> Mm-hm. >> As well we have a structural center for earthquakes. We've just. So, many sort of small things that we work for students on as well. And in our discovery park we offer students opportunity to participate in a contest. We will actually give them money to start their own adventures as well so they, they can undertake their own research that can lead to further education research. You know as students you know complete their Purdue degree. So that's pretty much you know what it. It centers around, you know, work, a collaborative environment with companies with new ventures and initiatives, whether it's public, public companies or private companies or even governments. >> And the, the research that you're talking about >> Mm-hm. >> Does that span all fields or is that just in the science field, for instance? >> It, it goes through all fields. Obviously for example, for Hospitality and Tourism Management Marriott Industries don't they gave money for a brand new building at Purdue University, which was testing and study a broad experience. For our School of Management, we have a global program, which students will have the opportunity to study in multiple different countries. And around the United States and also in collaboration with, you know financial sector companies around the world. So, it's not just specifically to science majors, it borders across all of the 200 majors that we offer at Purdue. is, more specifically is Food Science. We have a wor, world food scholars, which is pretty much the, the gl, the Emmy's of working in food research, you know, on our campus, whose, whose job is to find ways of working with in order to make food more accessible to many of the populations of the world where they don't have food. >> Bringing it back to- >> Mm-hm. >> Purdue as a whole. >> Mm-hm. >> Can you describe what a student can expect in their day to day life when they attend a large public research University? >> Mm-hm. >> And, maybe from your experience how might that be different, that, how might their experience be different at a, maybe a smaller university? >> I think that, you know, at a at a large public university. >> Mm-hm. >> There are many options to socialize and interact with people. >> Mm-hm. >> And I think that, you know, many of our students have to sort of figure out. What am I really interested in? Because it's very easy to sign up for ten clubs and [LAUGH]. You know your first semester, your first year. >> Mm-hm. >> But then you know, as time goes on, you sort of realize well this is what I really want to do. This is something I really want to focus my time and energy and effort on. >> Mm-hm. >> As they sort of think about. What they want to participate in. [SOUND] you know it's, with so many students obviously, you know, you have to make the opportunity to make moments to see the people that you want to see because you may not see everyone, you know, on a particular given day in terms, specifically, in terms of what you do. I, I should say that, you know, obviously with so many different majors and schools, the majors are broken up into different schools. So most smaller schools, you know, all of the majors may be in one particular school. But, you know, at Purdue, for example, engineering's in the College of engineering, you know hospitality and health and human sciences food science and the college for agriculture. So these are, so the majors are broken down into speciality schools which allow students to have more of and experience the relates specifically that relates to their on degree of study. And every department of school have their own specialized programs and services specific for their

majors as well. That does not mean that students can't interact with each other. And that does not mean that students, you know, students have the right to switch majors, you know. But, you know, that's another line of thought. [LAUGH] But, you know, but the point is, you know, students have, students are given, you know, a little bit more leeway in terms of, well, these are the things that you can do, you know, on an overall basis, you know. And, and our, and, and, and I think that, you know, at the end of day, trying to figure out what is the best thing for me? You know, if I like this, I'm going to continue this. If not, then I have the option of doing something else, you know? >> A slightly different question. >> Okay. >> Purdue is located in West Lafayette, Indiana, as you said before. And, West Lafayette is considered to be a college town. >> Yes. >> Which is a term that students will often see when they're doing their, their research. >> Right. >> Can you explain, what is a college town and, you know, using West Lafayette as the example? >> Absolutely. Pretty much a college town refers to the university's pretty much the center of the experience in the town. Most of the activities, most of the services, most of the programs is for, for our, the students, the, the 40,000 or stu, students who are in the West Lafayette area studying at Purdue. So when, when activities happen they're generally for, you know, our students coming on campus. I mean, and, and for, you know, of general interest. We bring in concerts, you know, of well known speakers around the world. One of my favorite authors is coming to Purdue this fall to give a talk, even though I may be traveling and I won't be able to see him. You know, we, I mean, obviously, you know football, and we're part of the Big Ten athletic conference that's very big. and, and so all of these programs and events that we do during the year, they attract not only Purdue students, but also you know, the 420,000 alums that we have at you know, across the United States and across the world, you know, were are Purdue as well. We've had alums come from, you know other countries, just to go to, you know the rivalry games that you know produce, so. >> Along with being in a college town, geographically Purdue is located in the mid west portion of the United States. >> Yes. >> Can you talk a little bit about life in the mid west and what students can expect by living in the mid west? >> Absolutely. So, and I should say, I'm originally from the east coast so, you know, I've, I've lived in the mid west for a number of years because I now work at Purdue. >> Mm-hm. >> But being in the mid west it is probably, it's a flatter part of the United States so there's. It's not as mountainous as you know the east or the west coast. In the mid west you get more distinct seasons per year. So you know, it snows in the winter you know it's very warm you know in the summer. As well. And also being in the mid west, you know, you're in between you know, the, the east coast. The seas of the east coast and the cities of the west coast so, it is, it's pretty much being in the middle of the United States in that sense. Generally the cost of living is cheaper and you know, the roads are less crowded. [LAUGH] Easy to get around in general, and, and I think that students sort of feel. The way I like to describe I guess the, the, the sensibility of being in the, in the mid west. You know, if you watch the movies and you see like the American flags and the porches and the parades and the town square, that sort of gives you, that's sort of like the idea of, you know, being in the mid west, I guess. You know. >> Mm-hm. Living there, you know, for numerous amount of years now, so. >> And what are, what are the people like in the mid west? >> I think everyone is generally nice wherever you go in the United States. I, I, I wouldn't say that's, you know, any different than, you know, being in the new, in the US but, you know you know, being a part of a university town that I can speak to specifically, you know, I mean, obviously the people who work and who are from Indiana who work at Purdue, they know, you know, that Purdue is definitely, Re, receive many international students and families from all over the world. >> Mm-hm. >> On a yearly

basis, and, and people go out of their way to, you know, make, you know, people feel at home in the community. I, I think that's something that, just not unique to just mid west. I think just in general you, you would find that. overall. But you know, I definitely think, you know, but in the mid west, you know, people would invite you to a potluck, you know, or a picnic [LAUGH] or, or these things, you know. I, I, I definitely see that happens slightly more often, you know, being, you know, in the smaller towns there, so, in Indiana. >> All right. We're going to take a quick break, and we'll be right back to hear more from Bryant, about the application process.